GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1144
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2007
AVAILABILITY OF CEMENT
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industry is badly affected due to shortage of cement;

(b) if so, whether the demand of cement has gone up rapidly during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details of total demand and supply of cement in the country during the above said period and the current year, separately ;

(d) whether the Government proposes to import cement in view of its shortage;

(e) if so, the names of the countries from which the Government is contemplating to import cement; and

(f) the time by when such imports is likely to be made? ANSWE R

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (c): As per the Cement Manufacturers' Association, the total production of cement was 141.81 million tonne, 155.66 million tonne and 55.25 million tonne in 2005-06, 2006-07 and first four months of 2007-08 respectively.The data in respect of demand of cement is not available. However, a spurt in the prices of cement is indicative of a mismatch between demand and supply.

(d) to (f):There is no restriction on the import of cement if it conforms to BIS standards and carries the standard mark. Import duty on cement has been reduced from 12.5% to nil. Countervailing duty and special additional customs duty on cement have also been removed. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is processing the applications of foreign manufacturers expeditiously. Further, MMTC Limited, a Government Enterprise, has been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003.These measures have been taken to increase the supply of Cement in the market to cater to increasing demand.